

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN
LAVOO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to the memory of John LaVoo who died in Vietnam during an ill-fated combat mission. Mr. LaVoo will, at long last, be laid to rest on July 19, 1999, in Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. LaVoo was a native of Pueblo and a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. On September 19, 1968, John and his navigator, Robert Holt, were killed when their plane crashed in North Vietnam. LaVoo was declared missing and was believed to be dead by the Marines, and in his honor, his widow, Rosalie Rusovick, commissioned the fabrication of a memorial anchor.

Over the years, the memorial, which has hung in the Orman Street entryway of Tabor Lutheran Church, has served as a special place for family and friends, and in the absence of a gravesite, has provided them with some solace. The memorial serves as a constant reminder of the life and sacrifice of John LaVoo and none pass through without learning of the history behind the anchor.

Recently, the remains of Mr. LaVoo were discovered through DNA evidence, and now his courage and sacrifice shall be honored through burial in Arlington. Though John will finally be put to rest in Virginia, his spirit will always rest in Pueblo where the anchor hangs in his memory. It is with this that I wish to pay my respects to Mr. John LaVoo, and I would like to express my gratitude to the LaVoo family for John's strength, patriotism, and service for our country.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ALBERT
JEROME

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Father Albert Jerome of St. Ann's church in Nashville, Illinois who celebrated his 40th Anniversary of ordination. When speaking of how he maintains his positive outlook on the world today, Father Jerome said, "... the answer to stop becoming a pessimist is to have a sense of humor. It has really been the mark of the greatest men ..."

Father Jerome has given and received a great deal of love to and from the dedicated members he has ministered for in his numerous stops over the past forty years. It would serve us all if he could minister for another forty years. However long his service is, it will be a service to the people of his ministry and the rest of the community.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING
GRADUATES OF P.S. 15. THE
PATRICK F. DALY SCHOOL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has lead and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following outstanding students from P.S. 15, the Patrick F. Daly School: David Watson and Precious Scott.

TRIBUTE TO SADAKO OGATA

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Commissioner, Mrs. Sadako Ogata.

Mrs. Ogata as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is responsible for protecting and finding solutions for refugees around the world. I would like to pay tribute to this organization today and to the work it is doing to help refugees around the world, but particularly the Kosovars.

Mrs. Ogata's organization is now working with more than 850,000 refugees from Kosovo, most of whom are in Albania and Macedonia, two small countries, who are struggling to aid these refugees despite their own substantial economic problems. UNHCR is the lead UN agency working throughout the countries of the former Yugoslavia. It has been hard pressed to raise the funds and find the staff and management skills, diplomatic support and logistical support needed to handle such an enormous undertaking as the Kosovo refugee emergency. The organization has had its problems. It depends on voluntary contributions to fund its programs and must respond to emergencies by moving staff from other duties to the latest crisis and unfortunately in refugee emergencies, no one is ever sure just how many people will be forced to

flee their homelands, or how long they will have to live under difficult conditions.

Recently, the UNHCR told donor governments that it still needed \$30 million to meet costs for the month of June (\$143 million required from March to June 30) and an additional \$246 million to continue its operations over the next 6 months.

UNHCR as an intergovernmental organization works with governments, other UN and international organizations and private voluntary organizations to aid the refugees. The U.S. has been one of UNHCR's major supporters both politically and financially. One of the important tasks that UNHCR must fulfill is to protect the lives and well being of refugees, particularly those who are vulnerable or at-risk because of physical or mental illness, insecurity, or separation from their families.

Despite all the big problems UNHCR faces in Kosovo, it can't forget the needs of individual families, like that of my constituents, the Halili family of San Leon, Texas whose relatives from Macedonia are safe today in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of UNHCR and to its hard working staff and the NGO partners in Albania and Macedonia, and in Washington, who were willing to put in extra hours and deal with lots of paperwork and overcome many obstacles to speed the evacuation and the suffering of the Halili family.

IN TRIBUTE TO OLGA M. JONES,
RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD 1999
DISTINGUISHED WOMEN OF
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and twenty-six women were nominated to receive an award for 1999 Distinguished Women Of the Year. Seven were selected. Among the seven is one of my constituents, Olga M. Jones.

A Native North Carolinian, Mrs. Jones attended public schools in our state and graduated from the Community Hospital School of Nursing. Later, she did post-graduate work at the University of Colorado and other institutions. In 1950, she became a Registered Nurse, launching a career that has taken her around the World, including Japan, Korea, Germany, Egypt and the Scandinavian Region. She has also traveled extensively, throughout the United States, including Alaska. And, currently she serves as Director of the Martin County Alzheimer's Group Respite Program in Williamston, North Carolina.

More than three decades of her nursing career was spent in the United States Army Nurse Corps, where she attained the rank of Colonel. Her experience with the Army and the opportunities she was afforded to travel helped cement her deep, unflinching commitment to health care and to a concern for others. She always knew she wanted to be a nurse, recounting how despite her mother's death when she was only five, the white nursing uniform that her mother wore remained etched in her mind.

Mr. Speaker, health care demands the most attentive and considerate among us, those who are faithful, loyal, and steadfast. It is a profession that requires individuals who are courteous, thoughtful and kind. Mrs. Olga M. Jones has reflected those qualities in all that she has done, over the years. She is an inspiration, a breath of fresh air, a pillar of strength, a tough lady with a tender heart. She has dared to be different, and she has made a difference.

One must gasp for air when reviewing all that Mrs. Jones has done. She has taught nursing classes. She has given instruction in nutrition. She has organized exercise classes. She has recruited many, many volunteers for community work. She has coordinated youth programs. She has organized blood drives. And, she is a member of numerous civic organizations. Despite all that she does, this loving wife and devoted mother keeps the proper priorities in perspective, reserving important time and effort to family and church. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in saluting, Mrs. Olga M. Jones, a 1999 Distinguished Woman of North Carolina.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY C. REGO
AND DONNA KELLY REGO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anthony C. Rego and Donna Kelly Rego, on the occasion of being honored with The John R. Cunin Lamplighter Humanitarian Award. This award is to honor philanthropic leaders whose involvement in business and community assists individuals and families in meeting their needs through programs of service and empowerment.

Anthony C. Rego is a dedicated businessman in the supermarket industry. As a teenager, he started his career in the supermarket industry by working in the family grocery business. He helped the family business grow from two supermarkets to ten stores by dedicating 25 years of his life in the Rego's Stop-n-Shop Supermarket chain. His motivation and hard work has granted him several awards such as, Cleveland Food Dealers Association "Retailer of the Year" Award in 1983, the "Leadership and Service Award" in 1989 from the Associated Grocery Manufacturers Representatives, and the Cleveland Food Dealers "Honor Award" in 1993. In 1997 Mr. Rego received the Ohio Grocers Association's "Industry Service Award."

Donna Kelly Rego presently serves as Chairperson of the MetroHealth System. For the past twenty-one years, Mrs. Rego has served as Pastoral Associate at St. Malachi Church and is presently engaged as an organization specialist working with religious and non-profit organizations. Also, Mrs. Rego is an educator and a certified pastoral Minister in the Diocese of Cleveland. Mrs. Rego currently chairs the Board of Trustees for the St. Malachi Center and serves as trustee for the Cleveland Health Network, the Center for Health Affairs, the Federation for Community Planning and the Benjamin Rose Center. She has received several awards such as: The Henry F. Meyers Award, Outstanding Women

of Achievement (Cleveland YWCA, 1992), Belle Sherwin Award (League to Woman Voters 1993), Crain's Women of Influence (1997).

I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Anthony C. Rego and Donna Kelly Rego for their lifetime dedication, service, and leadership to their community. Their large circle of family and friends can be proud of the significant contribution these prominent individuals have made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication of Anthony C. Rego and Donna Kelly Rego.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAMPON SAFETY AND RESEARCH ACT OF 1999 AND THE ROBIN DANIELSON ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I introduced two important pieces of women's health legislation—H.R. 890, The Tampon Safety and Research Act of 1999, and H.R. 889, The Robin Danielson Act. The research and reporting called for in these bills will finally give women the accurate information they need to make informed decisions about their health as it relates to tampon use.

Why is the issue of tampon safety important? Because tampons are used by 73 million American women—that's 53% of American women and almost a third of the total population. A woman may use as many as 16,500 tampons in her lifetime. Given these numbers, shouldn't we be certain that these products are safe?

I introduced two tampon safety bills because there are two separate issues that must be addressed.

Why is The Tampon Safety and Research Act important? Because tampons and other related products often contain additives, synthetic fibers, and dioxin. Dioxin is a toxic by-product of the paper manufacturing process. Wood pulp, as well as the rayon used in nearly all tampons, undergo several production processes, including bleaching. The majority of pulp and paper producers use a chlorine bleaching method that results in the formation of dioxin and other contaminants. As a result, trace amounts of dioxin are present in most paper products, from toilet paper to tampons.

Dioxin is also found in varying levels throughout the environment, but are women being subjected to additional and potentially avoidable exposures to dioxin through tampon use? Let me put dioxin in perspective, because we only have to consult recent history to know of the potentially disastrous effects of this substance. Dioxin is a member of the organochlorine group, which includes the contaminants found in Agent Orange, the Vietnam War-era defoliant, and at Love Canal.

But let's consult the experts as well. According to a 1994 report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, dioxin is a known cancer-causing agent in animals, as well as a probable human carcinogen. My bill is specifically concerned with the possible links between dioxin in tampons and ovarian, cervical, and breast cancers, as well as other potential hazards.

A 1996 EPA study has also linked dioxin exposure with increased risks for endometriosis, an often painful menstrual-related condition that is a leading cause of infertility. Further, the EPA has concluded that people with high exposure to dioxin may be at risk for other effects which could suppress the immune system, increase the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease, reduce fertility, and possibly interfere with normal fetal and childhood development.

The EPA conclusions regarding dioxin exposure are particularly alarming in light of a 1989 Food and Drug Administration report, which stated that "possible exposures from all other medical device sources would be dwarfed by the potential tampon exposure." Why? Because the average woman may use as many as 16,500 tampons during her lifetime. If dioxin is putting women at risk, could the long-term use of tampons increase that risk?

What makes these toxic residues in tampons even more disturbing is they come in direct contact with some of the most absorbent tissue in a woman's body. According to Dr. Philip Tierno, Jr., director of microbiology and immunology at New York University Medical Center, almost anything placed on this tissue—including trace amounts of dioxin—gets absorbed into the body.

According to researchers, dioxin is stored in fatty tissue—just like that found in the vagina. And women have more body fat than men, possibly allowing them to more efficiently store dioxin from all sources, not just tampons. Worse yet, the effects of dioxin are cumulative, and can be measured as much as 20 or 30 years after exposure. This accumulation is cause for particular concern, because a woman may be exposed to dioxin in tampons for approximately 55 years over the course of her reproductive life.

The question, of course, is why it is acceptable to have this toxic substance in tampons—despite the advice of an FDA scientist to the contrary. A 1989 agency document reported that "the most effective risk management strategy would be to assure that tampons, and menstrual pads for good measure, contain no dioxin." Why has there been far more testing on the possible health effects of chlorine-bleached coffee filters than on chlorine-bleached tampons and related products? My bill seeks to address this inadequacy, and finally give women the most accurate, up-to-date information available regarding this critical health concern.

Although the FDA currently requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels in their finished products, the results are not available to the public. When I—as a Member of Congress—requested the information, the FDA told me it was proprietary and therefore could not be released. It should be noted the dioxin tests relied upon by the FDA are done by the manufacturers themselves, who, not surprisingly insist their products are safe. Some of my constituents have written to say that this is the equivalent of the fox guarding the henhouse.

How much dioxin exposure is considered safe for humans? And does the fact that tampons are in direct contact with absorbent tissue, and for extended periods of time, make whatever levels of dioxin tampons possess even more dangerous? Is this the equivalent of a ticking time bomb, capable of increasing women's risks for several life-threatening or fertility-threatening diseases? Unfortunately